

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A method for treating fecal incontinence in a body of a mammal having a rectum formed by a rectal wall extending to an anus wherein the rectal wall includes a sphincter muscle surrounding the anus comprising the steps of introducing at least one nonaqueous solution into the rectal wall in the vicinity of the anus and forming from the at least one nonaqueous solution a nonbiodegradable solid in the rectal wall.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the forming step includes the step of forming a plurality of discrete nonbiodegradable solids in the rectal wall around the anus.

3. (original) The method of Claim 2 wherein said forming step includes forming a plurality of rod-shaped solids.

4. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the rectal wall includes an intersphincteric space and wherein the forming step includes the step of forming said solid in the intersphincteric space.

5. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the rectal wall includes an anorectal border and wherein the forming step includes forming at least one solid extending from the anorectal border to the anus.

Claims 6-8 (cancelled)

9. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the introducing step includes the step of introducing the at least one nonaqueous solution into the sphincter muscle.

10. (original) The method of Claim 9 wherein the sphincter muscle includes a sphincter ani internus and wherein the introducing step includes the step of introducing the at least one nonaqueous solution into the sphincter ani internus.

Claim 11 (cancelled)

12. (original) The method of Claim 9, the sphincter muscle including a sphincter ani externus, wherein the introducing step includes the step of introducing the at least one nonaqueous solution into the sphincter ani externus.

13. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the at least one solution is a solution of a biocompatible polymer and a biocompatible solvent and wherein the forming step includes the step of precipitating the biocompatible polymer from the solution so that the biocompatible polymer solidifies in the rectal wall in the vicinity of the anus and the biocompatible solvent disperses in the body.

14. (original) The method of Claim 13 wherein the introducing step includes the steps of extending a needle into the rectal wall and supplying the biocompatible polymer and the biocompatible solvent through the needle into the rectal wall.

15. (original) The method of Claim 14 wherein the extending step includes the step of extending the needle from the rectal cavity into the rectal wall.

16. (original) The method of Claim 14 wherein the extending step includes the step of extending the needle through the perineum into the rectal wall.

17. (original) A method for treating fecal incontinence in a body having an anal sphincter comprising the step of forming at least one nonbiodegradable implant in said sphincter.

18. (original) The method of Claim 17 further including the step of introducing at least one solution into said sphincter and forming said implant from the at least one solution.

19. (original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the introducing step includes the steps of introducing a needle into the sphincter and introducing said at least one solution through the needle into the sphincter.

20. (original) The method of Claim 17 wherein said sphincter has a damaged portion, further including the step of bridging the damaged portion with the implant.

21. (original) The method of Claim 17 wherein the anal sphincter has an internal sphincter and wherein the forming step includes the step of forming the at least one implant in said internal sphincter.

22. (original) A method for treating fecal incontinence in a body of a mammal having a rectum formed by a rectal wall comprising the step of forming a rod-like implant in the rectal wall.

23. (original) The method of Claim 22 wherein the rectum has a centerline and the rod-like implant has an axis extending substantially parallel to the centerline of the rectum.

24. (original) The method of Claim 23 wherein the forming step includes the step of introducing at least one nonaqueous solution into the rectal wall.

Claim 25 (canceled).